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ABSTRACT

The nine papers in this compilation are concerned with bibliographic control and rare and precious books and documents: (1) "The Problems of Serving Bibliographers, Historians and Librarians: The Nineteenth Century Short-Title Catalogue--NSTC" (F. J. G. Robinson); (2) "Experience with the Problems of Retrospective National Bibliography: The Case of the English Short-Title Catalogue, 1475-1640" (R. J. Roberts); (3) "Experience with the Problems of Retrospective National Bibliography: The Case of the Eighteenth Century Short Title Catalogue--ESTC" (Michael J. Crump); (4) "Experience with the Problems of Retrospective National Bibliography: The Case of the 'Wing' Short-Title Catalogue 1641-1700" (D. J. McKitterick); (5) "Towards the Feasibility of a European Network: An Approach by LIBER" (J. C. Garreta); (6) "Problems and Prospects of an International Bibliography on the History of the Printed Book and Libraries" (Hendrik D. L. Vervliet); (7) "Feasibility of a European Network for the Bibliographical Control and Study of the Manuscript and Early Printed Book" (J. Michael Smethurst); (8) "Rare Books Cataloguing Projects and the Study of the History of the Book in Spain" (M. L. Lopez-Vidriero); and (9) "Book Science Objectives within the USSR Library System Nowadays" (Tatyana I. Kondakova). (MES)

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53rd IFLA COUNCIL
& GENERAL CONFERENCE
BRIGHTON, UNITED KINGDOM
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SECTION ON BIBLIOGRAPHY
SECTION ON RARE AND PRECIOUS BOOKS AND DOCUMENTS

Joint Meeting
Session: 169 Wednesday 15.00 – 16.30

The problems of serving bibliographers, historians and librarians: the Nineteenth Century Short-Title Catalogue (NSTC)*(83-BIBL-4/RARE-1-E)*

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83-BIBL-4/RARE-1-E

The problems of serving bibliographers, historians and librarians; the Nineteenth Century Short-Title Catalogue [NSTC]

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ABSTRACT

Retrospective cataloguing of English language materials for the period 1801-1920 involves the problems common to earlier English STCs, but in an exaggerated form because of the quantity of data involved. This quantity also made necessary an approach which would provide an early over-view of all 19c publishing before attempting detailed examination of the millions of works involved. It was sought to provide reference tools for historical research into the period, and at the same time a basis for later bibliographical enhancement. It was decided that the first objective should be as full a list of 19c printed materials as could be gathered together from major

UK and US collections; the list to be indexed chronologically, by subject, by title and by place of imprint to facilitate historical research. The next objective will be to expand this list from specialist libraries and, in the process, to produce a series of subject sets of NSTC. During this expansion the original records will be considerably extended and converted to MARC format in preparation for on-line storage and retrieval. Use of the eventual on-line file will be supported by the provision of regularly up-dated search sub-files.

The NSTC was founded in 1983 with the stated intention 'to provide increasingly complete listings of British publications printed between 1801 and 1918 in order of authors, subjects, places of imprint, titles and dates of publication; British publications to be taken to include all works published in Britain, its colonies and the United States of America; all works in English wherever published; and all translations from English. 'Whilst some interested bibliographers, historians and representatives of the UK copyright libries had been consulted over a sample of the proposed catalogue, the fundamemtal decisions over the scope, intent and methodology were made by the present director and the late J.W. Jolliffe, then Librarian of the Bodleian; and this form of individual rather than committee direction has continued to be the working method of NSTC. The philosophy behind the project ws outlined in another context by John Jolliffe at the Rare Books and Manuscripts Preconference in San Francisco in 1975. In that paper he outlined a strategy for reducing to order the mass of various catalogued and uncatalogued materials of the 18c, and to provide expeditiously keys to their wealth for scholarly and historical research. The much larger quantity of books published in the period 1801-1918 necessitates the same pragmatic approach.

The English STCs inevitably have many common problems, as the cut-off dates are only slightly meaningful in historical terms, and are nonsensical in terms of description of the artefact. In some ways the difficulties of enumerative bibliography lessen as one advances towards the present day. Mere survival is more likely as the time lapse diminishes; in the UK the copyright laws supported the growth of major collections; the self-descriptive material in all printed matter tended to become more detailed. However the growth in the quantity of printed materials presents problems which possibly outweigh the simplification of recording. There is no single collection of 19c English language materials which holds more than a small proportion of relevant printing. The English copyright laws hardly worked until later in the nineteenth century; local printing, which expanded so much in this period, is only slightly represented in the major libraries; pamphlet literature, newspapers and ephemera are less so. If one includes, as NSTC does, American publiation and the publications of the colonies the problem of uniting such a mass of literature in any useful form becomes substantial. Perhaps the greatest difficulty was just to take the decision to start; and then where? and how?

It seemed essential to have a clear idea of what and whom the project was for, rather than to allow the form of record and means of handling it to dominate. The aims undertaken by NSTC were: to provide a source for historical investigation of the period by creating as full as possible a listing and location of relevant texts with chronological, geographical, and subject indexing [ie to answer any historical questions]; to provide an eventual listing of all relevant works of the period in sufficient bibliogaphical detail to afford a standard finding source for librarians to appraise their own holdings and prospective holdings; and to form the basis for an eventual union catalogue of all such holdings in whichever appropriate medium, with all the implications for the study of the history of the book that this would imply.

There is no conflict in these aims except that of order of attainment. NSTC decided to concentrate first upon the provision of sources for historical and literary research. For this reason the first phase has been concerned more with the content of the book, the life and background of the author, the place of its publication and the chronological changes in taste and subject than with bibliographical description. The same principal has led NSTC to include materials excluded from the earlier STCs: translations from English works published abroad, and works by English authors wherever published, and in any language, as these can assist the study of the spread of English culture. Whilst the form of this first phase of NSTC is conventional – an author ordered hard-copy catalogue – it represents a number of deliberate compromises from the eventual union catalogue, taken in order to provide an over-view of the publishing history of a long and productive period.

As with every STC the compromises take the form of a number of stages, but in the case of NSTC these are qualitative as well as quantitative. In the first stage the aim was to produce in reasonable time a list of nineteeth century publicaitons which would form the database for later expansion and sophistication. Clearly the larger this database the more valuable but there were other cosiderations apart from mere quantity. It was important that this basic file should disclose materials not easily available to the researcher. For this reason the database was created from holdings of libraries which as yet lack, or have only fragmentary, published catalogues – the Bodleian, the National Library of Scotland, the library of Trinity College, Dublin, and the university libraries of Cambridge, Harvard and Newcastle. The exceptions to this were the British Library, whose holdings are central to any English Language STC, and the Library of Congress, which generously provided a print out of its 19c holdings, thereby obviating laborious searches. It was important that the basic file be created, be seen to be growing, and above all be used; because that would show that the final catalogue, despite its magnitude, was attainable. For this reason the first phase was concentrated upon the catalogues of the constituent libraries; the books were examined only rarely. For this reason also the NSTC was divided into threee temporal stages, 1801-15, 1816-70 and 1871-1918; thereby scholars concerned with the first part of the period would be provided with a complete A-Z survey of the major libraries' holdings within a few years. The choice of the short first series 1801-15 also provided a very useful 'learning period' for the compilers.

The compilation of this stage of NSTC from the catalogues rather than the books themselves expedited the creation of the database, but also created new problems. The catalogues used varied considerably in arrangement and in bibliographical standard. all differed from the practices advocated in AACR2. It was decided to adopt the GK3 (British Library) form of cataloguing and to adapt other entries to that system, but with reference to the place of entry in the source catalogue if other than GK3. The most significant problem raised by this approach was that of genre, town and country headings such as PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, LONDON and ENGLAND. These headings were generally absent from the other catalogues, with the exception of the National Library of Scotland. The headings were retained and relevant items from other libraries interfiled; however in order to cull all such items from the other catalogues, the items under these headings were removed from the alphabetical sequence and recorded at the end of the A-Z author listing.

Finally it was most important that this first stage, which is primarily intended for the support of research into the 19c, should be an effective tool in that process and should be capable of answering in one publication the multitude of questions that will arise from scholars of every discipline. For this reason NSTC has put much effort into the preparation of indexes to the basic list. Every entry is assigned an alpha-numeric reference number; this is used to index the catalogue – which is author ordered – by subject, by place of imprint and alphabetically by title. Certain specialist sections such as the BIBLE and LITURGIES are also indexed by commentators, annotators, editors and the book trade. Both the subject index and place of imprint index are broken down chronologically to facilitate study of sub-sets of the 19c. The function of this phase of NSTC as a research tool determined the medium of publication. Because the indexing is so integral to its use, the only practical form was in hard copy.

This first phase of NSTC has been published for the whole author sequence for the period 1801-1815, and for A-Can for 1816-70. It is anticipated that the 1816-70 series will be completed in 1994.

A sufficient machine held database – some 145,000 records – has now been created for NSTC to begin the second phase of the project, which will present quite separate problems. This phase will take the form of enhancement from specialist libraries rather than other large general libraries as the former seem more likely to hold new materials, whilst the latter would probably provide more locations and new editions. For a variety of reasons it has been decided to begin with theological collections, but the modus operandi outlined below will be followed later for other special collections.

Upon the same principles as the first stage – that NSTC should produce research tools within a reasonable compass of time – it would be of limited value merely to add those new materials to the already large general file, either by hard-copy supplements or machine interfiling. It is essential that each specialist enhancement should a) include all relevant materials from the general sequence; b) stand on its own as a researach tool, apart from the general sequence; c) offer a sufficient corpus of material to make the compilation academically desirable; for this reason we have decided to abandon the 1801-1815, 1916-1870 division; d) be prepared in such a way that all material can at the same time be entered into the main database. For these reasons the preparation of each specialist catalogue will be based upon a version of the general file stripped of all other subject materials. This will be enhanced from comparison with the special collections. In this second stage preparation from the in-house catalogues will become uncreasingly secondary to examination of the books themselves by shelf searches. Indeed it is already clear that some of the older MS. catalogues could be practically used only in combination with a complete NSTC general file and its indexes, in

particular the title index. during examination of the books the descriptions already listed from general file will be extended bibliographically.

This next stage of NSTC therefore will cover the creation of a number of smaller specialist NSTCs, with enhanced bibliographical description. Thus far NSTC continues to concentrate its efforts upon the needs of the historian – much more detailed subject classification will be a feature of the theological catalogue. However the feed-back of the enhanced records from the specialist collection into the machine-readable file in MARC format will transform the greater part of that file; (in its widest sense theology alone covers perhaps 40% of English Language printing in the period 1801-70). Present progress suggests that completion of the first stage of 1801-1870 will produce between 600,000 and 750,000 records: the specialist collections will increase this by an unknown factor. At that point, in order to combine NSTC with other relevant machine-held catalogues the rest of the files will be converted to MARC format. Some form of on-line facility will be a logical development. NSTC intends at that point to prepare a file of search routines for historical investigation, and to add to this file searches made by users; some of these routines to be regularly run and the results logged. This will provide immediate answers to commonly asked questions which might require search of the whole file and redundant and expensive print outs.

The problems faced by NSTC on its inception were easy to indentify, and stemmed largely from the magnitude of the task:

1. Convince the academic world that it was possible within a reasonable time span.

2. Satisfy the requirements of three disciplines; for a catalogue which would provide basic listings of relevant works in every subject and indexes which would allow a variety of searches of the material; for a catalogue which would describe every work in detail, including its provenance and physical make up; for a catalogue in the latest medium which could be used as a directory for existing and potential holdings of any library.

3. Fulfill those requisties in a sequence, and within a time, that would be both academically and financially acceptable – for NSTC is a self-supporting body with no government or institutional financial backing.

These are not the problems or the parameters faced by previous STCs, although some of the same pressures are now appearing. The routes taken by NSTC therefore are inevitably different from those of our predecessors. At the same time whilst the NSTC numbers bibliographers, historians and librarians amongst its staff, it is perhaps significant that it is directed and edited by those in the second category.

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1987

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(2) Division: COLLECTIONS AND SERVICES

Section: RARE AND PRECIOUS BOOKS AND DOCUMENTS

166-BIBL-6/RARE-4-E

Experience with the problems of retrospective national bibliography: the case of the English Short-Title Catalogue, 1475-1640

by

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Experience with the problems of retrospective national bibliography: the case of the English Short-Title Catalogue 1475-1640

In this session we are considering national experience in the field of Universal Bibliographical Control, and in particular the use made in Britain of a particular kind of catalogue, the Short-Title Catalogue, as a means to the end of retrospective universal bibliographical control.

The experience of each country is different from that of others, even in such a relatively small though bibliographically prolific area as Europe.

I shall, then, consider the experience of what is now Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland, for which I hope our Irish colleagues will forgive me; our libraries have been closely linked, not always in the best way, and Irish book production has always been closely related to that of Britain.

Printing came to England in the same decade as it came to France and Spain, and about twenty years after the printing of Johann Gutenberg's great Bible at Mainz. But there the similarity ends. The printers of Continental Europe were already established, had gained much technical skill and experience, and disposed of far larger capital resources than those who set up the first presses in Westminster, London and Oxford in the fifteenth century. The latter did not wish, or were unable, to compete with continental printers in supplying even the home market with theological and scholarly works, particularly those in the learned languages. Instead, their output was limited to works in the vernacular (which was almost unknown in Europe), and to books relating to the peculiar English legal system and to local liturgical uses. The total English output of

the 15th century is slightly more than 1% of the European total. In the next century the position changed, a little at first, as, thanks to the Reformation, Bibles and liturgies were printed in English, which itself stimulated the printing industry. But in the last quarter of the 16th century, the English began to produce a literature - and for a brief period music - which after an elapse of time became world-famous. Unfortunately, they did not know this at the time, or no doubt they world have printed, for example, Shakespeare's plays, more carefully, and preserved better what they had printed. Throughout the seventeenth century the trend towards a more prolific book trade continued. There was a strange interlude during the Civil War, from 1642 to 1660, when the English bombarded one another with huge numbers of pamphlets (just as the French were doing during the Fronde), but when this was over they returned to the production of literature, and played a very important part in the scientific revolution of the 17th century. They also did something else of great future importance - to print books in their American colonies.

With some encouragement from the Dutch and from French Huguenots, the English language and, literature became much better known in Europe, and this was aided both by the generally aggressive commercial and political behaviour of the British in the 18th century - which gave them the end of one empire and the beginning of another - and by the gradual industrialization of the printing and publishing trade. Most of the technical innovations in printing and papermaking were the work of others, but it was the British who used them to create and feed a mass market for the printed word not only in their own territory but throughout the world.

This, then is the situation with which our retrospective bibliographical control from 1475 to 1918 has to deal, and I shall now talk about the first instalment of this control, as exemplified in the Short-Title Catalogue of Books printed in England, Scotland and Ireland and of English Books printed abroad 1475-1640. This was first published in 1926 and a second edition has now been issued between 1976 and 1986. The elements of this were the listing of books by author or by an anonymous title more or less derived from the British Museum's rules. The title was to be short, that is, sufficient to indicate clearly the identity of the book, by including both the opening words of the title and the "real" title; this is in contrast to the careful bibliographical transcription of titles practised by the British Museum. Again in contrast to Museum practice the roles of editor or translator were reduced to a formula, using the abbreviations 'ed.' or 'tr.'. The entry also recorded the name of the printer and publisher where these were known or could be discovered, and dates were recorded (or assigned) for all books (again, a Museum practice). It is not difficult to see how the catalogue corresponded of the major preoccupations of British scholars: the recording of all ascertainable facts about a golden age of literature. The closing date, 1640, was an attempt to avoid becoming embroiled in the pamphleteering of the Civil War. The catalogue was also to be a union catalogue, locations were given for all surviving books. These locations were originally intended to cover only books owned by British libraries but between the conception of STC in 1918 and its publication in 1926 the transfer of books from British collections to American had become a flood, and American locations were added. Indeed for many 'literary' authors American locations now outnumber the British. You will be told by later speakers how the concept of the first Short-Title Catalogue has been elaborated by three later offspring, taking the record into the twentieth century.

One of these successors, ESTC, is a data base, rather than a printed volume or volumes. Can the other Short-Title Catalogues be assimilated to this, to establish the bibliographical control of British books in machine-readable form? I am not an authority on record creation, but my answer must be, probably, but at enormous cost. Certainly up to 1700 the two STC's use markedly different conventions for author headings and also for corporate authors and for anonymous book, and these practices differ again from those used in ESTC. It would probably be possible to input STC entries and reformat them according to MARC conventions, but I doubt whether the result would be worth the expense. Perhaps later speakers will correct me.

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167 - BIBL-7 / RARE-5 - E

Experience with the problems of retrospective national bibliography: the case of the Eighteenth Century Short Title Catalogue (ESTC).

By

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Experience with the problems of retrospective national bibliography: the case of the Eighteenth Century Short Title Catalogue (ESTC).

The Eighteenth Century Short Title Catalogue (ESTC) was brought into being as the result of a conference, jointly sponsored by the British Library and the American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies (ASECS) in June 1976. This paper will, I think, demonstrate the impact that this joint support has had on the project. The support from the two academic communities (scholars and research librarians) is still manifest in the guiding principles of ESTC. In the United Kingdom the project is maintained on the national database; in North America it is available through the Research Libraries Group; in both databases it is held in an internationally agreed format (MARC) but, equally, the project has remained mindful of its commitment to serve the scholarly community and has, through the use of local MARC fields and (at times) departure from a strict adherence to AACR2, striven to achieve not only a union (i.e. giving locations) listing of relevant works but their presentation in a bibliographically logical sequence.

In 1976 feasibility studies were set up, but it was obvious from the outset that the file would have to be held on a computer, such was its potential size. One of the reasons for proceeding with the project, apart from bringing the relevant records under bibliographical control, was that estimates as to the extant corpus varied. It is now thought that the complete file will hold some 400 - 500,000 records; at present we have almost 200,000 records on the file and some 3/4 of a million locations.

In the autumn of 1976 the results of the feasibility studies were discussed at a further gathering in Washington. The British Library was first persuaded to run a pilot project beginning in February 1977 and then, with the approval of the British Library Board, to double the team strength to twelve professional members in the autumn of 1977.

The reasoning behind this was the conversion of the records of the Library's ESTC holdings to machine-readable form to create a base-file which might, at

some future time, then be enhanced with the holdings of contributing institutions. Also significant for the future of the Library was the chance to build experience of the machine-readable cataloguing of early printed material in a significant number of staff who could then be redeployed to other areas of the Library, taking their expertise with them.

The team began work cataloguing the BL's holdings in MARC format. At this stage (I think I will malign none of the original team when I say it) knowledge of the full potential of the MARC structure (with the use of local fields) was somewhat limited and certainly none of us dreamed of an online file. The original project-brief was merely to encode the data. Presumably others were to have actually input the records to the computer. At that time the project was not seen as a union catalogue although, obviously, the potential was there.

However, as has often been the experience of the project, the pressure of contributing libraries soon made it impossible to view ESTC in such a limited light. No sooner had the project begun than libraries volunteered their records to it. There can be no better forum than this meeting of IFLA in the United Kingdom, in which to record our gratitude to all those who, in far from clement economic times, have contributed their records to the project using their own resources. The response has been magnificent. Overall the project now has some 1000 libraries worldwide contributing to it. Half of these are North American and report to the American editorial centre based at the University of California at Riverside while the rest report to the British Library.

In addition to records sent to the editorial office the cataloguing methods adopted by ESTC were themselves taken up by the project, based at Münster, to catalogue the English language holdings of the Göttingen University Library, under the direction of Prof. Bernhard Fabian. As later with the Early Imprints Project of Australia and New Zealand, the ESTC cataloguing rules were used to catalogue material more extensive in range than the ESTC. Most importantly they were adopted to catalogue early printing, including

incunabula and, as I trust will be proved by the Göttingen catalogue, currently in the course of publication, have been sufficiently flexible to produce catalogues that not only record the holdings of this rich collection but do so in structured form.

The "in-house" working methods of the project in the British Library are based upon a single file in alphabetical order not by author but by title. Questions of varying attribution were, by this simple expedient, avoided. When working both in manual and in batch mode to the computer, the main file contained, in the same alphabetical sequence, both records created for British Library books and those from contributing libraries waiting to be related to the catalogued records. Even though we now work in a totally online environment with a transatlantic link to the Research Libraries Group system RLIN, based at Palo Alto, California, the file is still seen in this way.

The obvious impact of this system, and one which distinguishes the project from the other STCs being described here to-day, is that our titles are by no means short. Titles like *A sermon preach'd before the Honourable House of Commons, at St. Margaret's Westminster* ... require all of that title before they begin to distinguish themselves one from another. The longest title in the file is, I understand (thanks to the RLIN Information Center) 974 characters long. It is:

Mr. Hugh Murray Kynnynmound, of Melgund and Kynnynmound, advocate, the only acting trustee under the last settlement of Sir James Rochead, of Innerleith, Baronet, deceased, ... and James Dalrymple, an infant, ... by Mr. Hugh Sommervell, ... his tutor ad lites, - - - - - - - appellants. Sir James Dalrymple, Baronet, Hugh Dalrymple, Charles Dalrymple and John Dalrymple, Kinloch, David Kinloch and Alexander Kinloch, ... James Cathcart, Esq; and Mrs. Elizabeth Rochead, spinster, Alexander Hamilton, of Pancaitland, Esq. Thomas Dundas of Letham, and John Rochead, merchant in Edinburgh, - - - - - respondents. And the said Francis Kinloch, advocate, - - - appellant. The said Sir Francis Kinloch, Baronet, and Dame Mary his wife, and all the other person above-named, ... respondents. The case of the respondents Sir James Dalrymple, of the respondents Sir Francis Kinloch, and Dame Mary his wife.

Now that the file is available online the length of the titles comes into its own as a means of scholarly access to the records through keywords.

The sermon cited above also illustrates another problem that has exercised the project: the correct filing of editions and/or states within bibliographically structured headings. Spelling and typographical conventions during the eighteenth century had not settled and it is therefore quite possible that the second edition of such a title might have the sermon "preached" instead of "preach'd". Such vagaries have an impact upon correct filing sequences. This is particularly true since the project had taken the decision to transcribe edition statements as they were found on the title-page, in recognition of that fact that the "The second edition" and "The second edition, corrected" would refer to two distinct bibliographic items which should have separate records - records that would be confused if the statement were reduced to a numerical formula to assist the computer.

At first a local MARC field (249) was used to impose an order upon a heading once it had been catalogued. This could be contemplated in the context of an operation to catalogue the holdings of a single library but the impracticality of this in a union catalogue was soon recognised and Joe Zeeman, formerly an ESTC team member, drew up the specifications for field 269 which, through the use of subfields, coupled with the use of a subfield marker in the title, gives the project the ability to file by place of publication (other than the first place of publication); edition; impression; and by issue. The advantage of this system is that it can be applied to each record at the point of cataloguing without reference to the total picture that might emerge between then and the production of the final catalogue some years away.

The use of MARC as the framework of ESTC records has not been attended solely by a struggle to modify it for the requirements of early printed books. The project has undoubtedly benefited from the wider currency that holding our records in an internationally agreed format has opened to us. First amongst these was the mounting of the file on the national network

BLAISE in 1982 which has in many respects justified the scholarly support for the project in 1976 by making the file available for research. It is no exaggeration to say that the online file (another feature, facilitated by the adoption of MARC records, which, at this time, differentiates this STC from the others described today) has revolutionised enquiry into all aspects of the century. Members of the ESTC team explored some avenues of research at a symposium sponsored by the Extra Mural Studies Department of London Univeristy in 1982, and published as *Searching the Eighteenth Century* and we are aware of the file being exploited by scholars on both sides of the Atlantic to isolate data in new and exciting ways.

In addition, because ESTC records were MARC-based it was possible for them to be mounted on RLIN so that the American editorial centre could add locations and, once the holdings of the British Library had been published in 1983, to create new records. Because of data control problems pressures mounted for the two teams to work on the same system and, in view of the British Library's desire to create an online link to Washington, the project began working on RLIN (the Research Libraries Information Network) in October 1985. However, the MARC structure of the records has also enabled the Library to hold discussions with the National Libraries of Australia and New Zealand about mounting the records on their national databases. Most significantly for the future it has enabled the file to be mounted on an experimental CD ROM disk prepared jointly by the British Library Research and Development Department and Whitakers on display here, in Brighton. This development seems to promise to researchers that the flexibility of access which they currently enjoy on a mainframe computer might soon be available via personal computers. At this time there is a great deal of investigation still to be done but results to date are encouraging for the publication of ESTC on compact disk in 1989.

In conclusion I should mention the future of the project after publication, in whatever form it appears, in 1989. Two recent developments promise to establish a future for the project on both sides of the Atlantic. First, in March of this year the British Library Board agreed to support the

project for four years beyond 1989. This should ensure that the team in the British Library will complete the addition of the records already contributed or promised to us. However, this would have left some important repositories still beyond the capacity of a single institution. It has always been the policy of that part of the project supported by the British Library that it cannot financially assist in the harvesting of records. This has, regrettably, left some institutions with large collections but without the current resources to report their holdings, beyond our help. However, secondly, I am happy to report that the problem has now been tackled by Prof. Henry Snyder, the Director of ESTC in North America. Prof. Snyder has been successful in raising some funds with which he hopes to be able to harvest the holdings of the Oxford and Cambridge colleges not already committed to the project and also the Public Record Office. These records, which will be in photocopy form thanks to the generous donation of two Archivist machines by Select Information Systems, will be sent back to California where it is hoped that resources will be forthcoming to catalogue them in the period after the publication in 1989. By that time it is confidently expected that the project will have recorded the greatest bulk of the extant output of the British and British colonial presses during the century.

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Section: RARE AND PRECIOUS BOOKS AND DOCUMENTS

172- BIBL-S / RARE-2 - E

Experience with the problems of retrospective national bibliography: the case of the 'Wing' Short-Title Catalogue 1641-1700

by

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Experience with the problems of retrospective national bibliography: the case of the 'Wing' Short-Title Catalogue, 1641-1700

Donald G. Wing's Short-title catalogue of books printed in England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales and British America and of English books printed in other countries, 1641-1700 was first published in three substantial volumes in 1945-51. It was originally the work of one man, accessions librarian at Yale University, where the project still remains as an ongoing and active concern. Wing compiled his work partly from Yale's own holdings which it was his job to improve, and partly from major British libraries, before (during the Second World War) he turned also to three other major American libraries, the Hungtington, the Folger, and Harvard University. The work grew bigger with each of Wing's annual visits to Britain and with his reading of published library catalogues, some of which were more reliable, or more clear, than others. Over 820 different libraries are now represented in the Wing files.

Though arranged in alphabetical order like the Short-Title Catalogue of English books to 1640 (save for various differences in the rules for headings), Wing does not seek to be as comprehensive as the earlier STC, in that it omits, for example, many ephemeral publications such as bookplates or administrative forms as well as all periodicals: the latter have recently been surveyed separately by two members of the Wing project, Matthew Seccombe and Carolyn Nelson, whose work will be published shortly. That part, however, it is an extraordinary monument to one man's energy, a survey of (in historic terms) only sixty or so years, but in bibliographical terms involving over 70,000 entries, approximately twice as many as are to be found in Pollard and Redgrave's work for the previous 165 years.

As is the case with virtually all enumerative retrospective bibliographies, Wing's STC proved to be incomplete as soon as it was published. Even while he worked on the final volume, he was collecting fresh material for the revised versions of the earlier. The new edition of volume 1 (covering A - England) appeared in 1972, and coincided with his death.

The new edition of volume 1 was about 10% longer than the first. Although widely welcomed for the extra information it contained, and for the correction of earlier errors, it was criticized in particular for altering the numbering system employed in the original edition, on which librarians, scholars and booksellers had all come to rely. Volume 2 retained the old numbering when a revised edition of that was published in 1982, and volume 3 will also do so - fresh entries being added by a sometimes complicated alphabetic system added to the old numerical one.

Until very recently, the revision of each volume has depended on old-fashioned methods. The shoe-boxes of catalogue cards compiled by Wing in the 1930s and 1940s are still invaluable, like all such foundation records of retrospective or union catalogues: here they contain information about extra copies about the authority for individual entries, and various miscellaneous bibliographical or notes about peculiarities of particular copies, unrecorded in the printed version. They will form an essential part of much of the improved records eventually to be added to the database. For the revision of both volume 2 and volume 3, photocopies of entries were circulated to appropriate libraries. Apart from postal enquiries, the revised catalogued of early printed books in the National Library of Scotland, and the publication in 1985 of the first part of the Bibliographical Society's union catalogue of early printed books in the

English cathedral libraries, provided much fresh material. Between 1983 and 1985 some 50,000 further relevant items were recorded from Oxford college libraries alone: entries for the Cambridge colleges had already been added in the 1960s thanks to the work of the late H.M. Adams. At Oxford, where the holdings of Christ Church had been recorded earlier by W.G. Hiscock (much of whose work to be made useless by the sale of the Evelyn library, once on deposit there, in 1977-78, attention was focussed particularly on Worcester, the Queen's, and All Souls Colleges. The collection of Civil War books assembled by the family of the Parliamentary general Sir Thomas Fairfax, and deposited in the Bodleian Library in 1984 by their descendants, produced several thousand further items. Other work has recently been done in Dublin (especially at Archibishop Marsh's Library) and in North America, while the Wing staff have additionally been in touch by means of visits with the national libraries in Stockholm, Copenhagen and Berlin. In the last few years, the Wing project has also looked again in some detail beyond the shores of North America and of the British Isles, with an eye both to exported books and to the overseas English-language trade. French and German holdings of Wing materials are recorded very sparingly in the published volumes, and in Paris alone the Bibliothèque Nationale, the Mazarine, the Arsenal and the Bibliothèque Ste Geneviève have all proved useful fonds. One of the principal targets of course is the large collection of anonymous works not at present in the published catalogue of the Bibliothèque Nationale; but the Wing project is now in touch with those responsible for cataloguing these works, and it is understood that records will eventually be available through EURONET. For the future, it can be expected that the close commercial and dynastic connections between Britain and Holland in the seventeenth century will have resulted in sizeable collections in Dutch libraries, still to be seriously searched. German libraries will also require

proper exploration, and the exile of the Stuart Royal family following the Glorious Revolution of 1688 suggest that parts of Italy, too, may be rewarding.

Outside Europe and the United States, B.J. McMullin of Monash University, Melbourne, drew attention in 1978 to the incomplete bibliographical coverage resulting from the project's apparent failure to take account of Canadian libraries, or the published survey (1962) by W.J. Cameron of those in Australia and New Zealand: in the case of the latter two at least, the Early Imprints Project can be expected to produce further material still.

The revised version of volume 3 (P-Z) is now expected to be published at the end of 1987. Thanks particularly to the concentrated work done in the Oxford and Cambridge colleges, and at Harvard, this new edition will contain approximately 30% more entries (besides of course many more copies) than that published in 1951.

By the end of this year the entire alphabet will thus have been published, in hard copy, twice over within the space of a single generation. In doing so, conventional resources have been strained to the utmost. The numerous sets of proofs through which the revised second volume needed to be put made the decision to set the third from computer tapes, already revised in the Wing offices, all the more obvious. Volume 3 will in fact signal the beginning of a further phase in the project, in which eventually it will be possible to do more justic to the many extra copies of books discovered in the course of the last few years' visits to libraries for which there is no room in an ordinary printed volume. Volume 3 has been nmounted on magnetic tapes, which are being used initially to drive the setting of the text for the printers but which will

eventually become the basis for further revision themselves. Work meanwhile has already begun again with letter A. Because of the contentious nature of the revision of volume 1 (1972), it has been decided not to key the revision, but to use the original edition of 1945, and to enrich that accurately: among other advantages, this will mean that the original numbers can be reintroduced. The revised volume 2 will thus eventually become all but obsolete.

Volume 1 was keyboarded for further work in 1983-4. The entries have been constructed so as to be considerably more informative than those in the printed editions: in particular, it will be easier to record changes of title or spelling, while the construction of the programme allows detailed searching by title, date, format, publisher, bookseller, printer, and place of publication or printing. Because of the variety of forms of name in the book trade, involving for example non-English or abbreviated names, special provision has been made for indexing. In the location field, over 820 libraries are now being listed wherever appropriate, not simply whenever possible in the printed page as is the case at present. In the future, it will be posisble to extract details of individual library holdings, and thus to contribute to both library management and scholarly endeavour.

Quite apart from indexing possibilities, which will revolutionize the study of the late seventeenth-century English book trades, the promise of Wing in a machine-readable form offers also a hope that a more consistent policy will be possible for revision, and that some of the bibliographical knots created by successive additions will be unravelled.

No arrangements have yet been made for public access to the machine-readable records of either volume 1 or volume 3, but a decision on this is likely to be

made in the next few months, and there must be some hope at least that interim indexes may be made available. Though the records are not explicitly in MARC format, the editors see little difficulty in their conversion and, by implication, they offer the hope that eventually it may be possible to mount the records in an international retrospective database. Such a scheme offers not only the chance for the kind of geographical coverage after which the editors have been striving recently, but also the means to escape from the straitjacket of publication in conventional form. The prospect of being able to buy fuller, more up to date (and therefore, one hopes, more accurate) information will be universally welcomed.

Despite all the advantages of hard-copy retrospective bibliographies, the sheer scale of their compilation, the necessary complexities of their records if they are in any way accurately to reflect bibliographical and literary history, the need to present results to researchers as quickly as possible, and the appalling cost of publishing conventional books between hard covers in a limited market, all support the view that their primary mode of publication should be the publicly accessible database. If this to be the case, then bibliographers can be much more rigorous than (I fear) Wing has often been in ensuring that proper note is taken of which copy provides which particular information in an entry. Many of the late muddles discovered in Wing could have been avoided had it been clear at which point faulty information was introduced from (for example) a poor library catalogue, or over-hasty assumptions made without examining the books themselves.

We cannot hope that retrospective bibliography will ever be perfect,but in the transition of Wing's short-title catalogue from card index to hot metal composition to CRT screen we can see the discipline at last growing up. The

enormous capacity of CDROM, and with it the prospect of storing not only alpha-numeric information, but also images of high quality, could bring new bibliographic life to the old adage that one picture says a thousand words. All these developments will aid the accurate, unambiguous recording of discrete bibliographical items, and of at least their manufacturing and commerical relationships, if not of all their intellectual ones. But no less importantly, they will help our understanding of the history of one of the most international of all commodities, the printed book.

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Section Rare and Precious Books

206-LIBER-4-E
RARE-9
Summary

Towards the Feasibility of A European Network :

An approach by LIBER

by J.C Garreta, head Librarian of the Arsenal, Paris

Meeting 130
18 AUG. 1987

.../

Abstract

IFLA 1987 BRIGHTON .130

TUESDAY 18 AUGUST

J.C Garreta (France)

European Library network
An approach by LIBER

Cooperation is the aim of Ligue des bibliothèques européennes de recherche since its foundations in 1970.But new links appear between LIBER and European Council since the project in 1984 of a European Community Library, not a physical one but rather a computer assisted Library information system,on the way towards a European Union Catalog, through the intelligent gateway to library system.

Implementation of network between Library system is necessary : the first steps adopted by LIBER Working Group on Library Automation intends to realise a .
Survey of Automated European Library Networks(questionnaire is published in **LIBER Newsheet** n° 19/20, 1987, p.32-33). After that it will possible to interface the networks.

The Working Group decided in 1986 to carry on an in-depth study on retrospective conversion of Library catalogue into machine readable form.The most important point for Rare and precious books Sections , of course , but it needs a cautious method. The project cannot be achieved without a substantial effort from the European organisms.

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From the beginning in 1970 LIBER took the strongest interest in Library Cooperation.

The Resolution of The European Parliament, of 30 March 1984 to realise not a physical Community Library but a computer assisted Library information System gave impulse to the idea of an Intelligent gateway a system including both hardware and software, proposed by P.Goossens (European Library Automation Group, former Intermarc) The LIBER General Assembly in Bristol , July 1985 heard reports about BUCCS(Bath), PICA (Utrecht), BIBSYS(in Norway).H.Schnelling emphazizes " New European Prospectives for LIBER" enhancing Union Catalogues. After the important meeting of Luxembourg, October 1984,in Strasbourg stood an experts meeting in October 1985 expressing the need of inter connection between national automated systems, with share cataloging involving not only national but also Regional and Research Libraries ; Research has to be initiated on retrospective cataloguing.LIBER attended several other meetings in the following months.

A new LIBER WORKING Group, on Library Automation was founded in March 1986, with Dr.Rau,Cologne, as a president.

Retrospective cataloguing was a subject treated in LIBER General Assembly in Heidelberg (cf.LIBER Bulletin n°28, under press) : it is of the first importance for IFLA Rare and Precious Books Section

Computer assisted catalogue until now were an objective for UAP purpose, covering ~~immediatlym~~ essentially books to come. Our task has the book in its physical shape, not only the information it brings with.

We need for that purpose instruments localising the copies anywhere they are preserved , and wish use the modern systems available in libraries of our time.

...

We are concerned by networks when they give access to the comprehensive collections, not only for the 20 last years of acquisitions, of the libraries even of minor weight, provided they hold ancient collections ; the furthest point from the print place we find an old book, the most significant

is its presence — bibliography shares this point of view with Numismatics — and we have n't to forget the New World Collections : But it's a long way to get this achievement !

Two methods are possible for retrospective catalogues the direct one has itself a variety ;

- using the pitching method you ask an external bibliographical data base (OCLC, ,SIBIL etc)catch if you find it the notice you need for your catalogue ;

- Otherwise you enter yourself on the keyboard a new notice from the card you have at hand.

In the best cases entry is automatically produced from the printed catalogue into the machine readable system through a Scanner (optical reading)

At the opposite the case occurs of XIX^{e}cent.handwritten catalogues, following Brunet's Classification with uncertain AUthors index and dubious pagination : no question to put it straight in the machine.

THe other way is recataloguing from the book itself : a long and expensive process for the production of a completely new catalogue.

Which politics for LIBER , then ?

Working Group on Library Automation decided on 29 Sept. 1986 to begin the work with a Survey of Automated European Library Networks(Questionnaire published in LIBER Newssheet 19/20, 1987, P.32-33).

In the same movement the WG carries on an in depth study on Retrospective Conversion of Library Catalogue in to machine readable form.

LIBER has to promote a concerted move in this direction in every European country, extending ~~wide spreading~~ the existing living projects XVI th cent. books in German, Italian, Spanish, XVII th in French, XVIII th and XIX th in English. Certainly networks giving access to comprehensive collections with produce the needs of supplements for "Secular " recensions already published.

LIBER has to find its pace between necessary pragmatism and the particular severe spirit inspining some up to date cataloguing rules. Falling which Library automated catalogues linked through networks systems will remain as a dream.

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161 RARE-3 / LIBHI-4 E

Problems and prospects of an international bibliography on the history of the printed book and libraries

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Problems and prospects of an international bibliography on the history of the printed book and libraries

In the IFLA Chicago meeting (1985), Peter A. Hoare has evaluated the bibliographical tools which currently are at the disposal of library historians. The title of this paper was "Current bibliographies for library history: an international review and a feasibility study" (4-LIBHI-2-E).

As the editor of ABHB (Annual bibliography of the history of the printed book and libraries), I am thankful to be invited here and to be able to present a rejoinder to some of the proposals in the paper mentioned above.

Since 1972, fifteen volumes of ABHB have been published yearly by Nijhoff (The Hague) under the auspices of IFLA's Committee of Rare and Precious Books and Documents. Volumes 16 (1985) and 17 (1986) are in the press.

The origins of ABHB go back to the end of the sixties. A general feeling arose that the bibliographical control of the research literature in the field of book and library history was not well provided for. In his introduction to the first volume of ABHB, the editor expressed the following position:

> The history of printing, books, and libraries, is confined only to a limited extent within the boundaries of individual countries. There are, indeed, few historical developments which have played a more universal role, in reaction against all kinds of particularism, than type design, printing, book production, publishing, illustration, binding, librarianship, journalism, and related subjects. Their history should be assessed and studied primarily in an international, not in a local, context.
>
> The bibliographical resources, however, which the historian of these subjects has at his disposal correspond hardly at all to the essentially international character of the object of his studies.
>
> Since the appearance of the retrospective bibliography of Bigmore and Wyman, covering the subject comprehensively up to 1880, the only current bibliography has been the *Internationale Bibliographie des Buch- und Bibliothekswesens*. Covering a representative part of newly published literature, it appeared from 1928, but did not survive the Second World War.
>
> More recently, several useful, but limited, bibliographies have appeared. One should mention the *Bulletin codicologique* of the periodical *Scriptorium*, devoted to the manuscript book and appearing since 1959; the *Nordisk bibliografi och bibliotekslitteratur*, appearing in *Nordisk tidskrift för bok- och bibliotekswäsen* since 1952; the *Bibliographie de l'histoire du livre en Belgique*, appearing in *De Gulden Passer* since 1960; and *Bibliography in Britain*, published since 1962 by the Oxford Bibliographical Society; the index of Soviet literature *Knigovedenie*, appearing in *Kniga. Issledovanija i materialy* since 1965; the annual bibliographies *Bibliografija na bălgarskata bibliografija, knigoznanie i biliotečno delo*, published since 1965, and *Bibliotekoznanie, bibliografija, knigoznanie naučna informacija*, published since 1969. Moreover, several periodicals (e.g. *The Library, Studies in Bibliography*) regularly feature more or less complete surveys of recent publications. Like many other libraries and institutions, the *Département de la Réserve* of the *Bibliothèque Nationale* at Paris maintains an up-to-date, but unpublished, file of current bibliography. In the Netherlands, the *Bibliotheek van de Vereeniging ter bevordering van de boekhandel* possesses a detailed classification of its acquisitions. The catalogue, however, is published in ten-yearly instalments, which precludes its use as a current bibliography.
>
> Generally speaking, one may assume that the scattered way in which bibliologists gather and publish the bibliographical tools of their research impedes its scientific growth.

Ref.:2.822-07.06N/C3

This argument was discussed and approved at the 1969 IFLA-meeting. Thereupon an ad-hoc Committee, chaired by Mr. E.F.L. Roberts, Chairman of the Committee on Rare and Precious Books was established. It convened on 15 May 1970 in Brussels.

Following countries were represented:

- France (J. Veyrin-Forrer, A. Basanoff, B. Mohot)
- The Netherlands (J. Brouwer)
- German Federal Republic (S. Corsten)
- USA (H.J. Heaney)
- Austria (O. Masal)
- Denmark (T. Nielsen)
- Luxemburg (E. Van der Vekene)
- Belgium (H.D.L. Vervliet, E. Jacobs, E. Cockx-Indesteghe, G. Colin)

Following countries did adhere to the project in writing:

- Italy (L. Balsamo)
- German Democratic Republic (H. Lülfing)
- Poland (H. Sawoniak)
- Portugal (M. Santos-Estevens)
- UK (J.S.G. Simons)

The ad-hoc committee discussed the different alternatives of a general set up of this bibliography and finally agreed on the conception as it was elaborated in ABHB from volume 1 on.

This proposal was accepted by 16 individual countries; it was formally agreed by IFLA's Committee on Rare and Precious Books and Documents in its meeting of 1970 in Moscow. The essential point in the proposal was that the general set up of "Bibliography in Britain" would be followed and that the main chapters of ABHB would deal with:

Paper, inks, printing materials
Calligraphy, type design, typefounding
Layout, composing, printing, presses
Illustration
Bookbinding
Book trade, publishing
Bibliophily, book-collecting
Institutions, libraries, librarianship, scholarship
Legal, economic, and social aspects
Newspapers, journalism.

Within each of the main chapters of ABHB, the second division would be by country; the third level of division would be by century; the fourth level finally would mention geographical personal and corporate subjects. A further topical division by subjects seemed too complicated and not urgently required. A proposal (by the German Federal Republic) to exclude the history of libraries was not accepted by the majority of the participants.

In the mean time contracts were made with several commercial publishers. Finally the wellknown The Hague publisher, Nijhoff, was selected. In 1972 the first volume appeared bearing on the publications of 1970. Up to so far 15 volumes have been published and volumes 16 (1985) and 17 (1986) are now in the press.

During the years of its existence, ABHB has been the object of criticisms and proposals for change both from inside and from outside.

From inside there were complaints about the (numerous) typesetting errors mainly in the indexes and about the unwillingness of the editor to allow non-historiographical studies into ABHB.

The first shortcoming has been corrected by the automation of ABHB since volume 8 (1977). Set up in batch processing mode, the system allows the decentralization of the proofreading and the automatic creation of the indexes. This first exercise in automation was not an easy one; it was responsible for some delay in publishing the volumes 8, 9 and 10. Nevertheless, the automation included automatic indexing, automatic filing, automatic layout in a multiscript (roman-cyrillic) typography.

We are just now revising the procedure and we hope to introduce a more intelligent version (encompassing some form of automatic checking) based on IBM- or IBM-compatible micro-computers from next year on.

About my unwillingness to allow non-historiographical matter in ABHB, I am afraid that my position is not unanimously accepted. The opponents argue that description of modern processes (which tomorrow will be the sources for historiographical research) ought to be included. As general editor, I had in my opinion, two good reasons to refrain this modernism.

The first is a formal one: the terms of our 1970-agreement were explicit in defining the subject of ABHB as follows:

> This bibliography aims at recording all books and articles of scholarly value which relate to the history of the printed book, to the history of the arts, crafts, techniques and equipment, and of the economic, social and cultural environment, involved in its production, distribution, conservation, and description.
>
> Excluded are books and articles on modern technical processes. The history of techniques not primarily connected with book production is only admitted if the publication in question has a bearing on the history of the book, e.g. engraving is only admitted in its book-illustration context.

My second reason is that, if we were to allow modern techniques into ABHB and if we were to do this in a scientific acceptable way, i.e. aiming at exhaustivity, the history of the book and the libraries would be submerged completely by the literature of the modern techniques.

Thus, for example our chapter on library history amounts to about 700 records (I do not imply that this figure could not be raised say to one thousand). Can you image that ABHB would add to these, the some 10.000 to 15.000 items which are recorded in Library literature or in Library and information science abstracts, and moreover, to do the same exercise for the 10 main chapters of our subject. It would amount to a publication, comprising each year no less than 10 volumes of the size of the today ABHB. It is my apprehension that the whole fabric of national committees of collaborators on whose benevolent collaboration now ABHB completely rests, would break down under this excessive load.

External evaluation occurred mainly in reviews appearing in scholarly periodicals. Some were positively, some more negatively tuned.

Thus we were gratified by rather kind reviews, a.o. by:

- Louis Desgraves, in Bulletin des bibliothèques de France, 20 (1975)
- Luigi Balsamo, in La bibliofilia, 80 (1980)
- G. Thomas Tanselle, in Times liberary supplement (16 Dec. 1977)

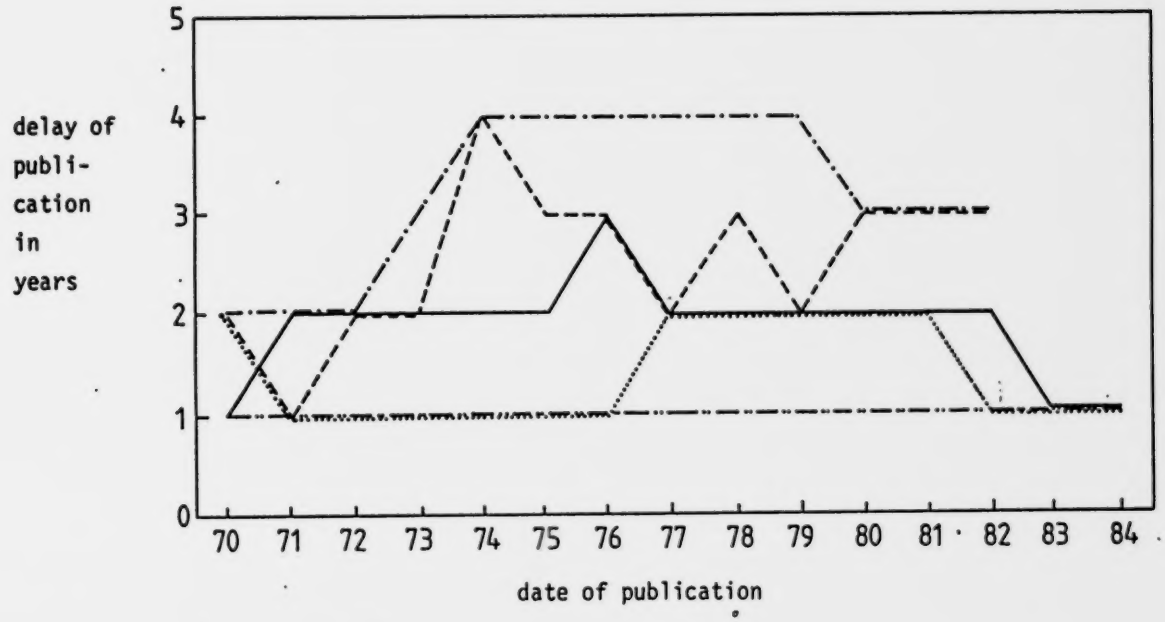
Others reviews were more or less critical. Thus

- by B. Hack, in Börsenblått für den deutschen Buchhandel (31.8.1973 and 30.4.1974)
- by B.J. McMullin, in Studies in bibliography, 33 (1980)
- by L.J. McCrank, in Journal of library history, 19 (1984)

The main points of criticisms were lack of currency, inconsistency in authority control of names, insufficient coverage.

About the lack of currency, I have compiled some statistics, which are shown in table 1. From these, it is clear that ABHB is published within one or at most two years after the end of the annual period. I accept that some bibliographies, published quarterly or more frequently, yield a better currency; but, on the other hand, most of us are aware that several annual bibliographies in related disciplines of history or philology and working on an international scale, do not perform much better.

Table 1



A ..... ABHB
B —..— Année philologique
C —.— Bibliographie internationale de l'humanisme et de la renaissance
D ——— Bibliographie linguistique de l'année
E ------ International bibliography of historical sciences

About the inconsistent authority control, I have a certain hope that the majority of the errors have been eliminated since ABHB was automated.

Many of the above arguments were reviewed by Peter A. Hoare in his critical and comparative evaluation of the bibliographical tools of the library historian in his IFLA paper mentioned above.

Summarizing we may say that following criticisms were made about ABHB:

- an insufficient coverage of library history;
- no coverage of the library history of the pre-Gutenberg period;
- unwillingless to include articles on modern topics which were not written for an historical point of view;
- too shallow subject indexing;
- too expensive price of publication.

To these remarks, I may comment as follows:

1. To connect book history with library history.

   There are "puritans" on both sides; in 1969 several members of the ABHB-founding committee were not prepared to admit library history into their sphere of interest. Wrongly, in my opinion, first because the production of the book and its dissemination cannot be studied separately and secondly because, as two separate bibliographies, both risk not to survive on their own, while one (albeit with difficulty, as ABHB proves) would.

2. To include library history of the pre-Gutenberg period.

   The Bulletin codicologique in 1968 was (and still is) an existing bibliography of outstanding quality. Why should we duplicate the efforts? Are we not exagerating the requirements of the relatively few specialists working in this time segment of ancient library history? Anyhow this material should not be included before it has been shown that the Bulletin codicologique is not able nor willing to cater for these needs. Wasteful duplication should be avoided.

3. To relax ABHB's strict rules on historical perspective or scholarly value.

   About ABHB's disposition in favour of historiography, I refer to what I have said earlier. Concerning the argument about a too strong emphasis on scholarly value, one should refer to rule 3.2 of the ABHB standards this reads as follows:

   3.2 Only items of scholarly value should be recorded. Of course, there may be reasons for including a minor paper on a less well-known person or item; you should, however, avoid reporting, on the great names of our profession, a mass of "touristic" and "popular" literature which adds nothing to our knowledge of the topic.

   In fact, we do accept relevant material, which perhaps is not entirely up to scholarly standards, if it pertains to a less-known item. Histories of local libraries sometimes fall within this category and are accepted.

   But we refrain to include articles on, say Gutenberg or Caxton in popular magazines or newspapers.

4. To introduce a full grown subject index or arrangement.

   I agree with this point. This is certainly a reasonable requirement. In 1979 I have written to my colleagues of ABHB about this. All, except one (Soviet Union) were reluctant to do the effort. Nevertheless, in my opinion, the point must be reintroduced.

5. To envisage cheaper methods of production.

   I see one major possibility, viz. to find a non-profit publisher. It could reduce the price with 30-40 %, but we must be prepared to reconstitute the subscription list.

Concluding I may make three observations, namely:

1. Slowly but steadily ABHB nears its objective to cover the whole world. In 1970, 17 countries (all except one European ones) were present; 1987 we will cover the whole world, except:

   in Africa: Black Africa
   in Asia: the Far-East
   India
   Israel
   Turkey
   in Europe: Albania
   Czechoslovakia
   Greece

   Anyhow when new countries or areas join, they are requested to clear the arrears from 1970 on.

2. The second phase of ABHB's automation will make it possible to produce cumulations and partial lists, f.i. by country.

3. Finally, your servant will be retiring by the end of next year. If continuation of ABHB seems worth wile, your Committee should look into the possibilities of succession.

H.D.L. Vervliet
22.7.1987

IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE, BRIGHTON

1987

① Division: Collections and Services

Section: Rare and Precious Books and Documents

② LIBER

168 RARE-6 / LIBER-1 - E

Feasibility of a European Network for the Bibliographical Control and Study of the Manuscript and Early Printed Book

by

J Michael Smethurst

Director General

Humanities and Social Sciences

British Library

K E Y W O R D (S):

Networks
Bibliographical Control

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THE FEASIBILITY OF A EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR THE BIBLIOGRAPHICAL CONTROL AND STUDY OF THE MANUSCRIPT AND EARLY PRINTED BOOK

Ten years have passed since Ian Willison presented a paper to IFLA on aspects of the programme for the Universal Availability of Publications (UAP). In his paper, The Relevance of Universal Availability of Publications to Rare and Precious Books (1), Willison ranged over the areas covered by the IFLA Medium Term Programme - collection building, exchange of publications, access to collections and conservation - expressing cogently the practical limitations of the Programme when applied to collections of older printed books and manuscripts, but stressing the importance of improved access to such collections, particularly through the improvement of Union Catalogues of various types. He rightly stressed that the improvement of such catalogues would be dependent on dealing with the collections which they were to represent, sectionally - by language and by period, except in the case of incunabula which formed a well-bounded class of their own. He commented forcefully that only by breaking the task down in this way was it made to seem manageable. "Failure to do this in the past", he continued, "has all too frequently resulted in a complete mental, emotional and administrative block whereby the outside libraries contributing to the respective union catalogues have found themselves skimping on their vague and under-motivated commitments, and the unfortunate editor of the catalogue has faced an appalling 'dirty' file which he has neither the will, nor the strategy nor the political or administrative support necessary to purge". He goes on to point to a new dilemma brought on by the developments in machine readable cataloguing and the current (and everlasting) financial constraints: the insistance that such union catalogues should be

placed in the context of the general cataloguing operation in a library with its highly elaborate structured records created to meet national and international standards, enveloped in control strings to make each record an intelligent single unit for retrieval, manipulation or international exchange. This he sees as unnecessary to the needs of the scholarly bibliographer who is essentially interested not in the single record but in the sequential placing of a record in an array of editions and in the relational relevance of one record with other seemingly like records, requiring not an "isolative" treatment but a relational one. He concludes, "The sheer time taken to compile, revise and proofread a recatalogued record which conformed to the demands both of the standardized machine readable context and of the sequentially arranged bibliographical catalogue may well lengthen the whole retrospective excercise, massive and complicated enough as it is already, to an unacceptable extent. For retrospective cataloguing, then, a simplification not incompatible with MARC yet providing most of the data required for both the "isolative" and "sequential" approaches would seem to be inevitable" (2).

Despite the changes in technology over the last ten years these comments remain valid and important today, and are relevant to any realistic discussion of the feasibility of a European network. That the technology has developed there is no doubt. The availability and daily use of the microcomuter is evident proof of this, but, despite the widespread use of these powerful but inexpensive tools for listing and ordering their impact on the fundamental thinking underlying library automation has to date been comparatively slight. If we can now confidently assert that the rapid development of front-end processors will continue, we can as confidently forecast that the massive investment required to maintain programmes and amortize large unitary main-frame computers will increase in real terms as the concept of distributed file structures and access becomes increasingly the commercial norm. The future for library networks lies

in the distributed file, multi-site access and multiple contributions to a distributed data base, both on the economic grounds intrinsic to the development and application of the next generation of computers and for the economic reasons and political reasons touched on by Willison ten years ago. With the development of the microcomputer, the CD ROM and the video disc, together with digital facsimile transmission of texts, sophisticated digitizers for the conversion of type faces and even modern manuscripts to machine readable data, we are seeing a new, cheap, or comparatively cheap, technology mainly at the desk-top which the scholar will be using for more and more of his day-to-day communications. Already, he has, and rightly so, high expectations that it can not only transform the accessibility of library records but, by transmission in digital facsimile form of the texts themselves, provide instantaneous access to the contents of our libraries.

The opportunities we now have for the realisation of the fullest benefits which technology can bring to bibliographic studies, to the world of the rare book, the early printed book and the manuscript, are exceptional. We can provide that range of access at highly specific points which allows for the deeper study of texts and textual and historical bibliography. We have the technology which allows selection, comparison, and key searches to be made from data files to support the evaluative assessment of the cultural trade routes and social developments consequent upon the establishment of printing, the spread of the book trade, and the growth of libraries.

But if the technology presents us with opportunities it also imposes upon us new responsibilities for ensuring the sensible development of networks and data-bases, taking advantage of the economy of the technology when it is sensibly used and refusing to be led astray by the argument, based upon last year's technology, that we must seek perfect compatability between existing

systems or create universal records of great complexity to ensure compatibility between the records of different systems when the systems themselves are not compatible. The technology itself can solve the incompatibility between systems by creating transparent "overlays". The cost of converting all existing records to ISBD to ensure compatibility cannot be countenanced if we are to make progress in networking. The concept of the homogenous unitary European data base for bibliographical records, attractive though it may seem, is not a practical proposition in the foreseeable future. We cannot afford to get everything "right" locally before we start at an international level

First there is no guarantee that perfect compatibility will result - interpretation of cataloguing rules, even universal rules, will lead to wide variations in headings, as will national prejudices for preferred forms; the history of AACR is proof enough of this. Secondly, the cost of maintaining and manipulating a very large bibliographical data-base will be prohibitive. It will be impossibly slow to access, prone to administrative and bureaucratic failure and will never fulfil the demands which the concept of networked access will make upon it. Thirdly, the cost of converting, by recataloguing to a new standard, the existing listings at a specialised level together with the general library catalogues will mean virtually no reasonable progress; the resolution of the conflicts which will arise will be difficult enough to occupy generations of cataloguers; the disaster of having old and new standards co-existing will be immeasurable. (We can all testify to the problems caused by the change of practice in Wing numbering).

The feasibility of a European network is mainly dependent upon how we respond to the technical changes in the immediate future, and how imaginatively we grasp the challenges of seeking to make available general cataloguing systems and of meeting the specialised demands upon those systems. I am convinced that the

opportunity is now ripe to opt for an eclectic approach which provides access to existing files and catalogues at whatever standard is implicit in those catalogues. I am certain that the main thrust must be towards a distributed network, organised through many nodal points with distributed responsibility for mounting the existing files into that network, with co-ordinated control of indexes wherever possible and practical. The constraints in which we are presently working are such that enhancement of existing catalogues and specialised files to ISBD(A) standards is an ideal not immediately attainable. We shall not in the foreseeable future see MARC or UNIMARC established so firmly throughout Europe that all our machine readable catalogues are MARC-based; nor do I believe that this is necessary for effective networking. We need to utilize the "front-end" technology to provide the necessary maps to interpret the records of disparate systems; we need to work towards a universally interchangeable index structure to records within systems and to seek transparency between systems for the user at local screen level. The interpreted display, based upon the detailed record with translation between systems of the common points of access must be our aim, and mapping programmes will be essential.

At the political level there are clear indicators of the desire to develop a Community network of European research libraries, but the will to do so must be strengthened. There is cause for some opimism. The recent European Commission hearing on libraries under DGX111 suggests that there is a common interest among research libraries to see, as a major priority, the development of networked access to library catalogues in the Community. The realisation of the European Research Library is seen to lie in this development rather than in the creation of a physical collection of books in one place. The concern expressed at the same meeting, and at a subsequent meeting in Germany, of the need for a concerted European programme for conservation reinforces the need for such a

network if the resources available for conservation are to be used wisely and rationally across Europe, and the tools (such as the Register of Microform Masters) which will allow this to happen are to be properly and adequately fashioned.

At the same time, the Concil of Europe is seeking a greater coordination towards the improved and sustained study of the European heritage of the mauscript and book. In December 1984 it proposed, through Greta Ulland's initiative, that the European Book Trade might be chosen as a first subject for in-depth study in "a network of research cooperation in the field of European cultural relations 1500-1800".

This joint meeting of the IFLA Rare and Precious Books and Documents Section with LIBER is therefore an appropriate and timely occasion for consolidating these and other initiatives into a coordinated effort to establish a working European network - beginning possibly by an extension of various bilateral developments between individual libraries in collaboration on rare book data-bases, preferably within a skeletal framework of the form of a European distributed network of national and local centres. (It is interesting in this context to speculate how far the specialised but distributed archival functions being considered for selected libraries in Germany might also act as a pattern for distributed network development across Europe, built upon centres of excellence which are funded for their role as distributed nodes in a national system).

If we are to build such a network, there are a number of problems which we must tackle as an urgent priority, not least of which is the establishment of effective protocols for communication between the various digital network carriers in Europe. The solution here lies in government hands, and will be

resolved by the political weight of international commerce rather than by international librarians. Our priorities must lie in the coordinated development of local and national databases in such a way that they can be accessed by the local user at his desk top with the minimum knowledge of how the system is put together. If he can display the information, through the development of interpretive software, in a familiar form as if it were a page from a published catalogue so much the better.

The development of networking between disparate systems is already under way. The British Consortium, CURL, is, for example, developing a network for the general catalogues of some eight or nine of the major UK university libraries by creating a commonly accessible single index to the nine differing catalogues enabling the user in any one of contributing libraries to consult through the network the catalogues of all through a specific request into the common index. This is a solution CURL prefers to the problem of working to a common standard for the conversion of their general catalogues. It promises much given a sympathetic collaborative development of the system, and suggests that practical resolution of the problem of retrospective conversion of existing catalogues may result from shared access to the data base.

In the archival world proposals are in hand to enlarge the Location Register of Twentieth Century English Literary Manuscripts and Letters both backwards into the Nineteenth Century and to cover aspects of book trade archives using the data base held at the Library of the University of Reading. Other interesting archival developments relating to microcomputer listing, e.g. first line indexes to MSS verse of the 16th ad 17th century, are now common enough and MSS departments are becoming enthusiastic and dedicated computer users.

Closer to home still, we have the developing data bases of the Incunabula Short-

Title Catalogue, and of the Eighteenth Century Short-Title Catalogue. The ESTC is probably well enough known as an international project of major importance. It is available as an on-line data base through BLAISE and exciting prospects for the 18th century scholar have already been well demonstrated by the experimental use of the trial CD ROM disc of the file. We are putting a major effort into the development of a CD ROM version of the file as a marketable product. As an international project ESTC demonstrates the validity of networked access to special files. It is available on RLIN, and OCLC is also anxious to add it to its data base. It will be a major contribution to a European network. The contribution to the file, and the use made of the file, in Germany, at Göttingen in particular, suggests that the development of direct links between the British Library and the Lower Saxony/Hannover State Library system would make a strong contribution to a European network.

Similar development of the ISTC data base is in prospect. Founded upon the conversion of Goff's census of Incunabula in North American Libraries into machine-readable form using the ESTC/MARC format which was devised to simplify and streamline the MARC record system for STC use and which has in recent years developed local fields (within the MARC System) to produce "isolative" records which nevertheless work to produce bibliographically structured headings, it now incorporates, in addition to the USA, records from the British Library, from Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and (less systematically) from other European countries as well as from Canada, New Zealand and Australia and from numerous smaller libraries in the United Kingdom. It is a flexible tool, easily and cheaply amended and hospitable to local-copy detail, achieving at minimum cost a valuable comparative listing by copy of the greater number of known printings. It is not as detailed as the Gesamtkatalog, and will not supplant it as a fully research-oriented comprehensive catalogue, but at the level of current use it presents an immediate overview to fifteenth century books which will not be

available through the Gesamtkatalog for some considerable time given the inevitably slow rate of its compilation. Again it suggests that the pragmatic and eclectic view of network development is vindicated. ISTC is being made available through BLAISE and we hope later this year through RLIN, and other data providers have expressed interest in mounting this file.

This development of machine-readable short-title catalogues is also to be seen in the context of the British Library's conversion of its great pre-1975 General Catalogue (GK) into machine-readable format. The cost of the exercise is substantial - some 2 million pounds over four years - and the scale of the costs which would have been incurred for recataloguing, as opposed to keyboarding, the printed catalogue made this proposition completely untenable given today's financial constraints. The availability of the British Library Catalogue in machine readable form is clearly of major bibliographical importance. The Library will itself need to address the problems of the lack of uniformity of headings and the limited record in the General Catalogue when compared to the standards of the post-1975 MARC/AACR entries, and will be seeking, as a matter of some urgency, solutions which allow common access to relevant material in both files, to simplify access and retrieval from the shelves with the automated book requesting system designed for use in the new St Pancras building. The relevance of this work in preparing the ground for the conversion of the British Library Short-Title Catalogues by country, language and century which had their origins in the style and standards of the General Catalogue remains to be tested, but, it seems not unreasonable to suppose that conversion of these will be made less costly if the GK data base can be used. The English STC to 1640 might be an interesting test-case.

Time does not allow me to speculate further on the conversion of Wing which is again compiled by different rules, and which is in the process of another major

revision and expansion to include major European holdings, including those relating to anonymous works in the BN. The revised listings are being keyboarded and machine-readable records exist for volume 1, although again they are not in MARC format.

Other short-title catalogues are becoming available in machine-readable formats. The Nineteenth Century STC owes much to the ESTC in its rapid development and promises greatly to expand the range of detailed coverage of nineteenth century British printing. The possiblity of creating a machine readable STC using David Paisey's listing of German 17th century books, and the proposals now being seriously considered for a combined Anglo-German STC of early 18th century German books, suggest that the tide is now running quickly in favour of a rapid growth in the range of data bases of significant language and period catalogues.

The technical feasibility of a European network seems in little doubt. How quickly and successfully we will achieve a fully interconnected system covering a range of older materials will depend on whether additional resources can be found, which is a question which we should seek to see resolved by the European Commission and national governments. But we must convince the Commission and national governments that we know what we can realistically achieve within the limited planning time which governments recognise. We must just as clearly ensure that those funds which can be made available are directed to establishing an integrated communications system between the discreet and specialised data bases which now exist and can be further developed, rather than they are used for chasing the unattainable goal of a composite standard for a European data base/unitary catalogue concept. We cannot afford to chase the perfections promised in the distant future. Our scholars are used to moving between catalogues of different types, and, at the end of the day, they will still require access to the given text, more often the real text rather than a

surrogate although facsimile transmission/video-title page reproduction might modify their demands for the actual texts. What they need is access to machine-readable listings, the facility to scan these, to augment, to consolidate, or to modify these using their own microcomputers for the initial and totally time consuming business of comparing and compiling. They have their technology already; we must not fail to give them access to our library listings in a form which frees them to give greater time and thought to the bibliographical study at the centre of their work and of much of ours. A European network which can do this will be a major achievement; it is both feasible and necessary. Let us now begin to develop it effectively.

(1) IFLA Journal 4(1978) No.2 pp.158-165.

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Division: (1) LIBER

Section: (2) COLLECTIONS AND SERVICES
RARE AND PRECIOUS BOOKS
AND DOCUMENTS

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ENGLISH

Rare Books Cataloguing projects and the Study of the history of the Book in Spain

by

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In the new structure of national Library, set by Government decree of 10th June 1986, the Old Stock Service is included in the Reference Department. Made up of the Fine Arts and Cartography Service, Registered Sound Service, Bibliographic Service, General Collections and Reading Rooms, the remit of the Reference Department is to make available to the public the printed and other collections held in the Library, to support the specialized reference work that facilitates access to its collections, and to carry out the technical and scholarly processing of non-book materials.

The Old Stock Service itself consists of the Manuscripts Section and the Reserved Printed Books Service. The latter - the former Rare Books Section - is divided in four sections.

- Incunables and XVIth century.
- Golden Age.
- Modern and Contemporary Rêserve.
- Minor Publications.

This new rationalization follows a chronological principle by which collections are divided according to the changing taxonomy of the book during the course of its history. The old Section divided the collections according to genre (Theatre), subjects (Cervantes) and so on.

Four librarians and one assistant librarian form the permanent staff. There are also some temporary staff working on a limited contract. At present the direction of the Section is in the hands of the Director of the Reference Department.

The history of the Section goes back to the XVIIth century. Already in 1637 the catalogue of the old library of the Torre Alta del Alcázar, nucleus of the Royal Library, noted prices of the most important books. Other acquisitions were added during the XVIIIth century.

The spirit of the Enlightenment also influenced the Royal Library, and work directed by Pérez Bayer led to the publishing of the second edition of the Bibliotheca Hispana Nova and Vetus by Nicolás Antonio, in which the elaborate treatment of the early books - for example printed books of the XVth century - helped to create the deposit of, and the need for, a rare and precious books collection with its own identity.

The War of the Spanish Succession - which permitted confiscation of the libraries of those noblemen who supported the Austrians, such as the Archbishop of Valencia, Folch de Cardona - and important purchases suggested by the Crown - such as the library of the Duke de Medinaceli, of Doctor Salcedo, of the Count de Miranda or that of the Cardinal Arquinto which Carlos III ordered to buy in Rome - enriched the collection enormously. We could say that, truly, the basis of the department was formed.

It is during the XIXth century that the expansion of the collection took place through the acquisition of good and select private libraries. To the acquisition of Juan Nicolás Böhl de Faber's library in 1849 was added that of Agustin Durán in 1863, and four splendid collections in 1873: approximately 30.000 printed books, mostly rare, of the Marquis de la Romana and of Serafin Estébanez Calderón, entered the Library on transfer by the Minister of Works. Likewise, chase of Cayetano Alberto de la Barrera's library, and, finally, the legacy of Luis Usoz's magnificent library, one of the department's most precious collections, led to the formation of an exception bibliographic resource.

In this same year, 1873, perhaps because these massive acquisitions forced the issue, the Junta of the Library decided on the 5th October to create a Rare and Precious Books Section. The posthumous work of Bartolome José Gallardo, Ensayo de una biblioteca espanola de libros raros y curiosos, published in 1863 and 1866, influenced the Junta not only when considering the creation of the Section but also when choosing a name for it.

The Section was divided into 12 sub-sections, among which were that of incunables, first local printing, books with autographs, rare printed books, and binding. Dramatic works, afterwards known as Theatre, constituted another Section of the Printed books department. The number of well-known dramatists in the Library's Directorate during the XIXth century was the reason of the creation of this section which now has more than 50.000 volumes. In 1867 Genaro Alenda y Miranda created the Miscellaneous Section, the three volumes of his Relaciones de solemnidades y fiestas públicas de Espana, published in 1903, recorded part of this rich collection of brochures which is now incorporated, in part, in our new Section under the name of Minor Publications (Various Especiales).

At the end of last the century, under the direction of Tamayo y Baus, the Cervantes' Section was created. The acquisition of two important private libraries during the present century enlarged the collection very considerably. In 1949, Asensio's Library was incorporated, and in 1968 that of Sedó which tripled the number of volumes and enriched the collection with an interesting selection of books of Chivalry as well as more Cervantine editions.

During this century, other notable acquisitions have been incorporated: the Graiño collection of approximately 500 books from the XVIIth to the XIXth century, most of them printed in the Philippines and concerned with oriental

subjects, is especially important for research into missions and the different cultural, linguistic and social aspects of the Islands' history.

Gómez Imaz collection, bought in 1977, is a large collection devoted to the Spanish War of Independence and includes not contemporary documents of that time but also, and exhaustively, the subsequent secondary material. The variety of documents in the Manuel Gómez Imaz collection is likewise impressive: letters, order, regulations, poetry, and also newspapers that are now very rare like the Diario Patriótico de Sevilla or the Diario del Gobierno de Sevilla.

This is, in broad outline, the history and composition of the Rare Printed Books Section.

On the basis of a collection 84,500 old and rare books, 2905 inc unables, 55.903 theatrical texts, 13.994 Cervantes items and 12.500 Minor Publications, the Section is now in process of defining anew, and deepening, its activites as follows:

- Inc unables

The General Catalogue of Incunables in Spanish Libraries, is now at press and revision of the indexes is underway. This is the moment to underline admirable efforts of Francisco Garcia Craviotto, for a long time Curator of the Incunables and Rare Books Section, now retired, and the author of this essential piece of scholarship.

200 libraries have collaborated in the Catalogue, together with certain departments within Museums and Archives. In the broad sense of the word, all these are libraries: Central Administration, autonomous or provincial libraries,

Royal Academies, ecclesiastical libraries, and also some private collections. The Catalogue consists of a total of 6.293 editions in 16.350 copies, among which there are a number of hitherto unrecorded items.

The National Library heads the list as regards both quality and quantity, followed by the Capitular and Colombina of Seville (with 1.095 incunables), Palma de Mallorca (649), university libraries in Madrid (690), Zaragoza (403), Biblioteca of Catalunya in Barcelona (390), and the Monasteries of El Escorial (464) and Montserrat (315). Among private collections, the house of Alba (43) and that of Bartolomé March stand out from the rest.

Following an alphabetical order of authors and anonymous entries, the Catalogue gives a detailed transcription of titles and, even if its a supplied imprint, it gives information about the typographical address (place, name of the printer known or putative and the exact or approximate date of its printing), reference to other catalogues or bibliographies. A concise list of libraries is added. In the main catalogue a contents analysis is added to the entries as well as alternative forms for authors' names. There are two indexes: persons named - translators, commentators, etc. - and titles.

The conventional form of printers' index has not been neglected. The catalogue ends with concordances to Hain, GW, etc.

- XVIth Century

We plan to revise the current provisional edition of the Union Catalogue of Sixteenth-Century Imprints, a work which, despite its defects, is a much valued reference and research tool. Julián Martin Abad, who specializes in the imprints of Alcalá de Henares, is in charge of this sub-section and of the revising and up-dating of the Catalogue.

- Golden Age

The Union Catalogue of XVIIth century imprints in Spanish and other languages of the Spanish kingdom was started two years ago by the Center of Bibliographical Heritage. The Rare Books Section, the main source for the development of this Catalogue, has undertaken not only the completion of the project by cataloguing the foreign XVIIth century editions at the National Library, but also the creation of a Subject Headings Corpus that will permit the subject access to the books.

At the same time a catalogue of bindings has been started, as well as a catalogue of engraved title-pages that can be accessed by authors, engravers, designers etc as well as by subjects. We are using the same format as for the Heritage Catalogue to allow for automation, a task now being carried out on the Ministry of Culture's computer. The project follows MARC and ISBDA descriptive rules.

All copies of the same title are being catalogued and revised simultanously (following the alphabetical order of the Library's general index) so that it is possible to detect all the printing and publishing variants that are so characteristic of the Golden Age.

This enormous task is supported by the Ministry of Culture, and at present 5 librarians have been temporarily engaged to finish it.

Modern and Contemporary Réserve

This year a pilot project was started in this Section that is proving to be positive and interesting.

It is a joint project with the Universidad Autõnoma of Madrid, specifically with the professor of Modern History, Miguel Artola, who is currently engaged on research work into legislation during the Ancien Regime.

The National Library, with its large collection of minor publications of the time of Carlos III (one of the most important periods in Spanish legal history) is organising a joint University-Library group for the cataloguing and indexing of both legal and literary minor publications. After a period of training, the students in their last year at University carry out bibliographical and subject analysis under the professional direction of the head of our Section. The results have been encouraging and the project will be continued next year.

For the descriptions the same format is being used as for the XVIIth century cataloguing so that, if necessary, they can be loaded on to the computer and a data base could be created for this period, the bicentenary of which we will commemorate in 1988 with a large program of exhibitions.

Another joint project, proposed to the Ministry of Education with the object of obtaining special funding, is the cataloguing of the collections of those convents disentailed during the XIXth century. Approximately 40.000 books are awaiting bibliographical treatment. We have started this project in collaboration with Professor Simón Diaz, director of CECEL. Professor Diaz is

responsible for the XVIth century Spanish "typobibliography" project now in progress, which is of major importance for scholarship and for the study of printing in Spain during this classic period in the history of publishing.

Moreover, the Ministry of Culture has an active policy of publicising, and of support for, the Library's bibliographical heritage. The latest exhibitions, for some of which I have had the honour of being responsible, aim to bring people closer to the rare and precious collections of the National Library and to make Spaniards aware of this richness that is part of their history. 'Tesoros de Espana' - that was opened at the New York Public Library - 'Beatos', 'Bibliophile Kings', 'Leisure at the National Library', 'Sciences through the Ages' (at the Bodleian Library), 'El Escorial', 'Contemporary Bindings', 'Manuscript Maps of the National Library' have given citizens the opportunity of seeing marvellous pieces of work, in a sense hitherto unknown because never or almost never had it been possible to view and, moreover, to know and understand them. The exhibitions have been planned very carefully and seriously and the published catalogues can be considered as essential reference tools for the study of our collections.

On the same level, we are now contemplating the creation of a Museum of the Book. The reconstruction of our building - aimed at its rationalization and enlargement - includes sufficient space to house, in addition to the Bibliographic Exhibitions, those objects and books can illustrate the history of the book, printing and publishing.

As regards research into the history of the book, last year we held the first of a series of seminars on the Early Spanish Book, attended by about thirty Spanish and foreign specialists. This first meeting was dedicated to the memory of F.J. Norton to whom scholars and librarians concerned with early Spanish books

librarians felt and feel an enormous debt of gratitude.

This, then, is the outline of our projects and our achievements. It is an honour for the National Library to participate in the IFLA Congress, and in a very special way for myself, because I have had the opportunity, I hope, of making you appreciate the interest and the value to the public of our rare and precious books collections

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IFLA, General Conference, Brighton
Division: Collections and Services
Section: Rare and Precious Books and Documents

BOOK SCIENCE OBJECTIVES WITHIN THE USSR LIBRARY SYSTEM NOWADAYS

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Meeting no: 130

T.Kondakova

Book science objectives within the USSR library system nowadays.

Abstract

The main direction of research in book science within the USSR library system today are the development of some basic theoretical aspects, which will promote the optimization of librarianship. The priorities in this field are: the examination of the problem of the valuable book (the book monument) as of a specific aspect of research of books in the library; the analysis of theoretical problems of book propaganda; the solution of methodological, historical and source problems in the history of the book, as in a scientific discipline; the building-up, preservation and usage of the All-Union collection of book monuments; the creation on a country-wide basis of a uniform specialized data bank on book monuments; the organization of an All-Union complex of book museums; the recreation of the history of the book in the form of fundamental monographs.

The outlined themes of book-science research to be carried out within the USSR library sytem develop the propositions of the IFLA Medium-Term Programme for 1986-1990 of the Section on Rare and Valuable Books and Documents.

All library-science activities conducted in the libraries of the country must in the future be performed within the framework of a special purpose complex programme directed towards the realization of the USSR Law on the Preservation and Use of Monuments of History and Culture (1976) and Article 68 of the USSR Constitution.

All the efforts of the bibliologists and book historians on staff of Soviet libraries are focussed on the achievement of the basic task - by joint efforts to preserve the book treasures of the past and the present.

The basic task of the rare book departments of Soviet libraries is the formation of a unified all-Union stock of book monuments of history and culture. This can be achieved through optimal acquisition as well as bibliological control and exchange of bibliological information about these publications which should be in a computer-readible form and based on the unified description standards /this facilitate the introduction of the necessary data on book monuments into a single computer catalogue/. The second urgent task of bibliologists-librarians is to preserve the stock of book monuments for the present and future generations while at the same time making them available for the readers. This can be achieved by combining traditional and non-traditional services on the basis of modern technical means. In this connection of increasing importance is the elaboration of an effective system of forms and methods of book propaganda /such as museum and other methods/.

The above mentioned practical tasks determine the direction of research in the bibliological field being carried out in the country's libraries. The summing up of the great experience of research and practical work of the Soviet libraries carried out in the mid-80s made it possible for the Department of Book History and of Rare and Precious Books of the Lenin State Library to realize the direction of bibliological research precisely in the library system and to determine its tasks and the problems involved.

The importance of bibliological research for the solution of a wide range of problems facing the country's libraries today is underlined in Article I3 of the Regulations on Librarianship in the USSR adopted in I984. In accordance with these Regulations the Lenin State Library is assigned a function of an All-Union coordination centre of methodological and research work in the country's unified library system not only in the field of librarianship and bibliography administration, but in the bibliological field as well.

It has become traditional in the libraries of the Soviet Union to comprehensively study the book history of various chronological periods; this study forms the basis for theoretical and practical works in the bibliological field carried out in libraries.

A great part in the work of the Lenin State Library, as well as of the republican, university, academic and other large libraries, is played by historical-bibliological studies, which in our country are based on a wealth of sources. They are of great general cultural significance and help to reveal the role of book in the history of national and international culture and elaborate science-based principles for the bibliological administration today.

Moreover, historical and bibliological studies are also aimed at the solution of urgent tasks facing the library system for they promote the formation and propaganda of all the library stocks as a whole. These studies are of primary value for the creation of the stocks of book monuments.

Among the recent significant achievement in this field which the bibliologists of the Lenin State Library can boast of are the publication of first three volumes of the multi-volume History of Book in the USSR as well as the creation of a data bank which made this publications possible, i.e. a whole series of reference books and indices of archive and literary sources on the history of Soviet book.

The libraries mentioned above are the leading participants in and organisers of the most important historical and bibliological seminars and conferences, such as, for instance, the All-Union Conference on Bibliological Problems, "Fyodorov Readings", "Fyodorov Seminar", conferences "Book in Russia up to the mid-19th Century", "Book and Bibliology in Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania" and so on. As a result of these forums and the entire bibliological research, collection of scientific papers are compiled which elaborate on many questions of the history of book of various chronological periods, as well as its theoretical, bibliological and source administration problems.

The bibliological control and exchange of bibliological information on book monuments which are among the means of creating stock of this type of publications are closely linked with research work. The most sensible form of work with book monuments is the compiling of union catalogues /i.e. of publications of those periods when there was no current bibliological registration/. The bibliological study of any monument starts from the determination of time and place of its publication and more often than not, from the information about its author, translator, original text, and so on. While in modern publications all this information is supplied in the book itself, it is often absent in book monuments. So to obtain it a lot of effort and research work are necessary. Experience has proved that a bibliological study divorced from the particular book monument is labour-consuming and unproductive. Only large-scale union catalogues make it possible to bibliograph real publications and not legends by the multitude of which all important book monuments are always surrounded. They also ensure the high degree of precision and exhaustiveness of the bibliographical description made de visu.

A number of union cataloques of national books compiled by libraries' collectives, as a rule under the leadership of the Lenin

State Library, have been put out. Among the best is the six-volume Union Catalogue of the Russian Books Put Out by the Civilian Press in the 18th Century. 1725-1800. It is almost exhaustive science-based fundamental bibliography of Russian publications within the said period. Now Soviet bibliologists are working over union catalogues of books published before 1708 and of incunabula /Roman, Cyrillic and Glagolitic types of the 15th-17th centuries, and of the civilian press of the early 19th century/, as well as of book monuments of the later periods /for instance, Union Catalogue of the Lifetime Editions of Lenin's Works/.

The acquisition of book monuments and their investigation are accompanied by attempts at theoretical comprehension of the very notion of a "book monument", or "rare" or "valuable" book, at determining the parametres which put a certain book into this category. The research into these problems which is especially actively carried out by the bibliologists of the Lenin State Library results in the issuing of documents containing underlying principles for the creation of stocks of rare books in all other libraries of the country.

Among the urgent tasks facing the bibliologists of the country is the elaboration of the fundamental principles for ensuring the preservation and availability of book monuments. Already quite tagible today is the tendency to reduce the issuing of the originals by replacing them with all types of copies. These problems, however, need to be further investigated.

The constant practical work on book propaganda carried out by the libraries in the variety of forms reveals the need for bibliologists-librarians to elaborate on a series of theoretical questions such as the essense of the notion "book museum", the book as a museum exhibit, the fundamentals of the exhibition building of a book museum and so on. This work is carried out on a national scale and is headed

by the Lenin State Library, within which a Book Museum was opened in 1983. Moreover, the Library has recently published a reference book of an international character Book Museum and Bibliology and undertaken the function of a keeper of the data bank on these problems.

So, the main direction of bibliological research in libraries is the elaboration of fundamental theoretical problems promoting the improvement of librarianship. Among those are primarily methodological, historiographical and source-studing problems of the book history as a science; research into the problem of a valuable book /book monument/ as a special aspect of book studies in libraries; an analysis of theoretical problems of book propaganda.

The solution of the above problems has brought forth the following:

- the formation, preservation and use of the All-Union stock of book monuments;
- the creation, on a national scale, of a unified specialised bank of data on book monuments;
- the organisation of an all-Union complex of book museums;
- the recreation of the book history in full-length books.

The planned bibliological research into the USSR library system develops the propositions of the medium-term programme of IFLA for the period from 1986 to 1990.

It is also planned to conduct all the bibliological studies in the country within the framework of a single target-oriented comprehensive programme aimed at the implementation of the USSR Law on the Preservation and Use of the Monuments of History and Culture adopted in 1976 and Article 68 of the Soviet Constitution of the identical content.

Thus, bibliology and its methods have turned into an effective means of perfecting the entire complex of library processes as the

book monuments are concerned, which are not only a source of information but an example of publishing art with all their pertinent characteristics.

The definition of a special aspect of bibliological research, characteristic only of libraries, makes it possible correctly to determine the specialization and further coordination of their work with related departments and public organisations of the Soviet Union:the Commission of the comprehensive study of book under the Scientific Council on the history of world culture of the USSR Academy of Sciences, All-Union Book Chamber, respective departments in institutes of higher learning, publishing houses and the All-Union Society of Book-Lovers.

Greater integration and cooperation of activities of the Book Museum of the Lenin State Library and the whole system of rare and valuable books departments in Soviet libraries, as well as the archives and museums of the country which keep the stocks of book monuments, would promote the transfer to the intensive way of development. The Book Museum of the Lenin State Library, as the head organisation in its field, would furnish the theoretical and methodological base for all the work carried out within the system on the basis of the thoroughly comprehended library practice. The share of works carried out by libraries of various departments on the basis of cooperation is growing. To introduce the results of research and advanced experience into library and museum practice it is planned to draft /in the Lenin State Library/ a Statute on the bibliological activity of the libraries in the USSR, to set up a Scientific Council to deal with bibliological problems under the Librarianship Section of the Council on coordination of research work in the fields of culture and the arts of the USSR Ministry of Culture, and regularly to conduct methodological seminars and on-job training of chiefs of respective de-

partments in the Lenin State Library.

The tasks of bibliologists-librarians are both narrower and wider than those facing bibliologists working in other organisations. They should be subordinated to one aim: to make a tangible contribution to the country's cultural potential by collecting, preserving and popularizing unique stocks of book monuments of history and culture. Thus, the librarians, by implementing in their field of activity a most important proposition of the 27th CPSU Congress on the acceleration of the country's social and economic development, are using the scientific potential of bibliology to improve and raise the efficiency of the Soviet librarianship system.